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Patent

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: David A. Stewart et al

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U.S. Serial No: 10/779,504

Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed On: 12 February 2004

Examiner: Alicia A. Chevalier

Title: "TOUGHENED UNI-PIECE, FIBROUS, REINFORCED,
OXIDIZATION-RESISTANT COMPOSITE"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia. 22313-1450

Election Of Claims

Dear Sir:

In response to receipt of an Office Action, mailed 27 January 2006, for the patent application identified above, requiring an election of claims between a thermal protection system transition region and a thermal protection system ceramic bonding approach, the Applicants herewith cancel claims 16-23 and elect to proceed with prosecution of claims 1-15. Ceramic bonding is explicitly recited in independent claim 16, and claims 17-23 dependent thereon, but is not explicitly recited in independent claim 1 or in claims 2-15 dependent thereon. The Examiner has not indicated groups of claims to which an election can be directed. If the claims election herein needs to be modified, the Applicants request that the

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Examiner explicitly indicate claim groups from the initially filed application that should be considered in making the election. If this claims election is not accepted, the Applicants withdraw the cancellation of claims 16-23 and will enter a new election according to the choices indicated by the Examiner.

Respectfully Submitted,



John Schipper

Date: 27 March 2006

Patent representative for Applicants